

Adopt-A-Road!

Headed by Bill Agnostak



Project Goal

To beautify roads where the County doesn't have enough resources to clean up all litter, on mostly secondary roads. This particular volunteer does his cleanup on Dufief Mill Road.

Timeline for Planning:

- **At least 6 times a year:** pick a day to clean-up a mile-long stretch of road, preferably with a group.
- **A week before your cleanup:** Call or email to arrange pick up of Adopt-A-Road supplies that are provided to volunteers each quarter. The Community Outreach office is open Monday through Friday between 9:00am - 4:30pm.
- **Right before your clean-up:** Arrange to meet up with your group at the site.
- **If it rains or snows right before:** go another day. It will be much easier to clean up on dry ground!

How Many Volunteers?

Bill does it by himself, but it can also be done in a group of family members, friends, colleagues, or others.

Time Commitment

It takes about 2 hours per time to do the cleanup. Bill likes to do a cleanup at least once a month so that there is less to pick up each time. If 3-4 bags are filled, Bill usually piles up bags up on the side of the road and calls 311 to schedule a pickup if the bags are heavy.

Expenses

None, other than gas to pick up the trash bags or to drive to the street.

Publicity

None needed for the project. A sign is hung by the County with the name of the individual or group that is responsible for cleaning that road.

Challenges

- It can be hard to recycle items that you pick up if you do it on your own. But if you have a group of people then one person could be designated to carry the recycling bag.
- County bus stops tend to be place where people throw trash, so there can be a lot to carry, including broken glass, if those are on your route.
- There can be animals such as dead cats, foxes, and deer. For big animals, you should call the County for pickup.

Results

The road looks much cleaner and road signs don't stay in the ground indefinitely. "It's a very worthwhile program and one of the easier volunteer jobs to do," Bill says.

Tips/Key Steps:

- Wear old clothes that you don't mind getting very dirty.
- Wear gloves to pick up things like glass, and use Pik Stix to pick up trash in poison ivy or stickers.

SAFETY FIRST!

- > If your road doesn't have sidewalks, aim for an early cleanup on a week-end morning when there is very little traffic.

